

**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended in a number of locations to correct  
5 grammatical and spelling errors. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-7, 12, and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,880,289 to Imoto et al. These rejections are traversed by amendment.

Claims 9-11, 13-14, and 16 were objected to by virtue of dependence on rejected base claims 8, 12, and 15, respectively.

10 Claims 4, 8, 12, and 15 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 4, 12, and 15 have been amended to correct the errors objected to in the office action.

Claim 8 has been canceled, and the features of claim 8 have been incorporated into claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is now allowable as amended. The objection to claim 8 based on the inconsistency with claim 1 has been traversed. Specifically, the phrase “at 15 least one further optical fiber” is in the language added to claim 1 as recommended by the Examiner.

Claim 9 has been amended to be dependent from claim 1. Claims 2-7, and 9-11 are now allowable by virtue of dependence on claim 1.

Claim 15 has been amended to correct the errors objected to in the Office Action.  
20 The scope of claim 15 has not been changed. Claims 15 and 16 are allowable as amended.

Claim 12 has been amended to include a second lens, with an optical fiber end face. This amendment is supported by original claim 8, and Figs 1, 3, and 4 of the present application. Claim 8 was considered in the Office Action to be allowable because of the 25 second lens and optical fiber coupled to the second lens. Hence, claim 12 as amended is now allowable for the same reasons.

Also, claim 12 has been amended in several ways to make it clearer and correct grammatical errors. These amendments do not change the scope of claim 12. The only change in scope made to claim 12 is the addition of the second lens.

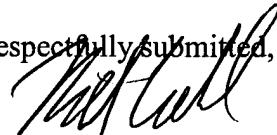
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1-7, and 9-16 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such 10 provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees for the petition or for entry of this amendment to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041 (Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson P.C.).

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Respectfully submitted,



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